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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary

June 1957

THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

On July 20, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued an executive order establishing on a permanent basis the National Agricultural Advisory Commission. The order requires that the Commission have 18 members, not more than nine of whom shall be members of any one political party, and that at least 12 be representative farmers from the several geographic sections of the United States. The Commission meets at the call of the Secretary of Agriculture at least once during each quarter of each calendar year.

The purpose of the Commission, as stated in the President's executive order, is to: (1) Review the policies and administration of farm programs within the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, or any part of such policies and administration, and such related matters as the Secretary shall determine, and (2) advise the Secretary in regard thereto. (The new Commission replaced the 14-man interim agricultural advisory committee which met with the Secretary of Agriculture in an advisory capacity several times following its appointment in December 1952.)

As of November 24, 1953, all 18 members of the Commission had been appointed. Six were to serve until January 31, 1955, six to serve until January 31, 1956, and six to serve until January 31, 1957. William I. Myers, dean of the College of Agriculture at Cornell, was named by President Eisenhower to be chairman of the Commission.

Present members of the Commission (six to serve until January 31, 1960, six until January 31, 1958, and six until January 31, 1959) and a brief biographical sketch about each of them follow:

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To Serve Until January 31, 1960 --

William I. Myers, Ithaca, New York (Chairman)

Mr. Myers has devoted nearly all of his life to agriculture, as teacher, research worker, administrator and farm operator. He was born on a farm near Lowman, N. Y., and spent the early years of his life there. He graduated from Cornell University in 1914. In 1920 he was appointed professor of farm finance and in 1938 he became head of Cornell's Department of Agricultural Economics. Since 1943 he has been dean of the College of Agriculture. For more than 30 years Mr. Myers has lived on and operated his 78-acre farm near Ithaca, N. Y., where he specializes in production of eggs and poultry.

From 1933 to 1938 Mr. Myers was on leave of absence from Cornell to serve as governor of the Farm Credit Administration. He had much to do with drawing up legislation creating the FCA and in establishing the regional offices now operating in the 12 Farm Credit Districts. He has also served as a member of several State and national commissions concerned with agricultural problems.

Mr. Myers is a trustee or director of several philanthropic foundations and business corporations. He was also appointed by President Eisenhower as a member of the International Development Advisory Board.

On October 22, 1953, the President named Mr. Myers to serve as chairman of the National Agricultural Advisory Commission.

George D. Bailey, Rochester, Vermont

Mr. Bailey owns 1,100 acres of land of which about 130 acres are tillable. He has 85 head of registered Holsteins and a small sugar operation -- about 700 buckets. He has served as president of the Vermont Holstein Club, and as director of the New England Holstein Friesian Association. He began farming in 1914 and has devoted a great deal of time and effort to marketing milk and dairy products in New England markets.

Since 1934 he has been president of the Bethel Cooperative Creamery. He is past president and now is director of the Windsor County Farmers Exchange, trustee of the Gifford Memorial Hospital in Randolph, Vt., director of the National White River Bank in Bethel, Vt. and a selectman in his home town of Rochester.

Mr. Bailey was a member of the Vermont State Agricultural Conservation Committee from 1936 to 1945, serving as chairman from 1941 to 1945.

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Tom Hitch, Columbia, Tennessee

Mr. Hitch operates a 350 acre farm where he specializes in grazing and feeding of beef cattle. He also has been active in tobacco production and marketing in Tennessee. He has served as a member of the Tobacco Advisory Committee under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946.

Mr. Hitch is president of the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation and a delegate member of the National Cotton Council for Tennessee and Kentucky, and chairman of the Committee on Utilization and Research of the National Cotton Council.

He is a member of the board of directors for the Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, the Tennessee Producers Livestock Marketing Association, the Tennessee State Board of Agriculture, and the Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. He is also president of the Tennessee Farmers Mutual Insurance Company and the Tennessee Rural Health Improvement Association.

Albert K. Mitchell, Albert, New Mexico

Mr. Mitchell long has been directly interested in problems of the livestock industry, particularly the marketing phases of it. He owns large ranching interests near Albert, N. Mex. He is a member of the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association and has served as president of the American National Livestock Association, as director of the National Livestock and Meat Board, and as a member of the New Mexico Cattle Sanitary Board.

Since its inception in 1947, Mr. Mitchell has been chairman of the Industry Advisory Committee on Foot and Mouth Disease. He has also been a member of the board of directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation and of the USDA National Agricultural Mobilization Board, and has served several terms as a member of the Federal Reserve Board, Denver Branch. He was one of the original members of the 11-man National Agricultural Research Policy Committee which was established under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946.

Mr. Mitchell is president of the American Hereford Association.

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Jesse W. Tapp, Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. Tapp is chairman, board of directors of the Bank of America in Los Angeles. He is a native of Corydon, Ky. An agricultural economist, Mr. Tapp has wide experience with agricultural programs and enterprises. He holds a B.S. degree in Agriculture from the University of Kentucky, an M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin, and has done graduate work at Harvard University.

Mr. Tapp worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as an agricultural economist from 1920 to 1928, then as an economist with the National Investors Corporation until 1933. After that he became president and director of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation and a member of the board of directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and the Commodity Credit Corporation.

In 1939 Mr. Tapp became vice-president of the Bank of America in San Francisco. This service was interrupted while he served briefly in the War Food Administration in 1943, and then as president of Axton-Fisher Tobacco Company in Louisville, Ky., until 1945. Mr. Tapp was a member of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Trade Policy Advisory Committee under the Research and Marketing Act from 1947 through 1952. He served as a member of the President's Citizen Advisors on the Mutual Security Program. Mr. Tapp is a member of the American Farm Economic Association, the Academy of Political Science, and the Commission on Foreign Economic Policy.

Alvin Wiese, Eagle Lake, Texas

Mr. Wiese was born in Lissie, Wharton County, Texas, and moved to Eagle Lake, Texas in 1941.

Reared on a rice farm, Mr. Wiese began his own operations in 1938. His farming was interrupted in 1942 when he was called in the armed services. Separated from service in October 1945, he resumed farming and now farms 360 acres of rice.

Mr. Wiese is a member and past director of the Eagle Lake Division of the American Rice Growers Cooperative Association, and is serving his third term on the Eagle Lake City Council.

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To Serve Until January 31 --

Roswell H. Anderson, Wibaux, Montana

Mr. Anderson has been active in farm programs for more than 20 years. He was a community, county, and State committeeman in the old AAA organization (now Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service) serving as chairman of the community committee in 1933. He was a farm supervisor in 1936, and a farmer fieldman from 1941 to April 1943, when he resigned to give full time to his farming operations.

He now farms about 780 acres, with about 475 acres in crops. He produces wheat, corn and grass seed. He has a herd of 35 head of beef cattle.

Mr. Anderson is president of the Wibaux Co-op Elevator Co., and has served on the Company's board of directors for nine years.

Homer R. Davison, Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Davison has been vice president of the American Meat Institute, Chicago, Ill., for 16 years and has been associated with the production and marketing of livestock all his adult life. Born in the agricultural community of Marshall, Ill., Mr. Davison worked as a hired hand on livestock and grain farms in the summers during his college days. After graduation from the University of Illinois, where he majored in animal husbandry, he began his work in livestock marketing.

Mr. Davison became livestock commissioner of the Chicago Livestock Exchange more than 30 years ago. In cooperation with Federal, State, and county officials, he helped to promote an educational program to stamp out tuberculosis in cattle and swine.

Other positions held by Mr. Davison include: Director of association management of the American Meat Institute, director of the Department of Livestock of the Institute, and his present position as vice president. His work with the Institute has had to do with such livestock production problems as breeding, feeding, pasture improvement, and soil and water conservation. Mr. Davison has also devoted considerable time to developing and improving outlets for animal fats. He owns a farm and lives on it, but does not have time to devote himself to full-time farming.

Arthur B. Evans, Cedarville, Ohio

Mr. Evans specializes in the breeding of purebred Hampshire hogs and purebred Angus cattle. He also does general farming on his approximately 800 acres, including the production of corn, wheat, oats and clover.

He is president of the Ohio Republican Farm Council, president of the Ohio Swine Improvement Association, director of the Farmers & Traders Bank, Jamestown, Ohio, past president of the Ohio Hampshire Breeders Association, member of the Livestock Division of the Ohio State University Economics Planning Board, former member of the Green County Chamber of Commerce, director of the Hampshire Swine Record Association, a former member of the State Board of Agriculture, honorary member of the Future Farmers of America, active in 4-H Club work, and has been elected to the Ohio State University Hall of Fame, and to 'The Honor Society of Agriculture,' Gamma Sigma Delta.

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Arthur C. Lawrence, Apex, North Carolina

Mr. Lawrence was born in Wake County, North Carolina on his parents' farm which he now owns and operates. On 157 acres he produces flue-cured tobacco, corn, wheat, oats, livestock, and pine timber.

Mr. Lawrence is master of the Olive Chapel (N. C.) Grange, a member of the North Carolina State Grange Tobacco Committee, a member of the National Grange Special Tobacco Committee, chairman of the Agricultural Policy Committee of the North Carolina State Grange, represents the North Carolina State Grange on the North Carolina State Rural Development Committee, and is a member of the Advisory Committee to the North Carolina Board of Water Commissioners.

He has been active in farm program administration since 1934, and now is serving as chairman of his county Agricultural, Stabilization and Conservation Committee, a position he has held for several years.

Milo K. Swanton Madison, Wisconsin

Mr. Swanton has been a farmer all his life. He owns and operates a 94-acre dairy and livestock farm near Madison in Dane County, Wis., on which he has lived since 1919. He has long been active in agricultural cooperative work in his State, having first served as local secretary of the American Society of Equity in 1919. In 1922 he was the leader in organizing the Madison Milk Producers Co-operative Association and served as its first president. Mr. Swanton was also active in organizing the Wisconsin Tobacco Pool, and at the present time is a member of various marketing, service, and farm supply purchasing cooperatives.

Mr. Swanton became Executive Secretary of the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture Co-operative in 1937. From 1937 to 1940 he was secretary of the State Board of Agriculture and for three years during World War II served as general manager of the American Dairy Association of Wisconsin. He was chairman of the Wisconsin Centennial Executive Committee.

He has served as president of the American Country Life Association and is a member of its Executive Committee. He is a member of the State Labor Relations Board Advisory Committee. Mr. Swanton is president of the State Historical Society. He is a director of the National Milk Producers Federation, a trustee of the American Institute of Cooperation and a director of the National Citizens Council for Better Schools.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Swanton did extension work for the University of Wisconsin and for four years served as an appraiser with the Federal Land Bank System.

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Ben Swigart, Mooreland, Oklahoma

Mr. Swigart has been a farmer nearly all his life and in recent years with two of his sons has operated a 920-acre diversified farm, of which 80 acres are irrigated. Wheat, alfalfa, and sweet clover are produced on this farm, along with about 720 acres of pasture. The Swigarts also have a herd of 80 purebred Herefords and 25 Jersey cows.

Mr. Swigart has taken an active part in various local and State agricultural organizations and served successively since 1916 as board member, secretary, and president of the Farmers Cooperative Trading Company of Mooreland. He is president of the Farmers Cooperative Grain Dealers Association of Oklahoma, a director of the Woodward Production Credit Association, and has served on the Farm Credit Board of Wichita since 1945, acting as Chairman for the last two years.

Mr. Swigart is a charter member of the Woodward County Farm Bureau, and from 1934 to 1944 was president of the Mooreland local Farmers Union. Since 1950 he has been the legislative representative of the Oklahoma Agricultural Cooperative Council. Mr. Swigart is a charter member of the Mooreland Community Creamery.

In January 1955 he was appointed for a four-year term as a member of Governor Raymond Gary's (Okla.) agricultural committee of the Economic and Development Commission. He is also a member of the agricultural advisory committee of Oklahoma A and M College.

Mr. Swigart was elected president of the National Cooperative Elevator Association in December 1956. On May 30, 1957 he received a Lifetime Honorary Membership in the 4-H organization for Oklahoma.

To Serve Until January 31, 1959 --

Robert D. Armstrong, Monmouth, Illinois

Mr. Armstrong farms about 525 acres of land near Little York and Monmouth, Ill., of which he owns 160 acres. He produces both grain and livestock, feeding all grain produced on the farm. He normally produces bout 400 hogs and feeds about 200 cattle for market each year.

A past president of the Warren County Farm Bureau, Mr. Armstrong has been a member of that organization for 19 years. He has served on various committees of the Illinois Agricultural Association, and as vice president of the Illinois Livestock Producers Association. From 1941 to 1953 he was town clerk of Hale Township.

Mr. Armstrong was associated with the Production Credit System of the Farm Credit Administration for four years before he started to farm in March of 1940. He is a former 4-H Club member, and is now a leader in that organization.

He was graduated in 1936 from the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois.

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Harry J. Beernink, Seattle, Washington

Mr. Beernink was born in Beaver Dam, Wis., and moved to Lynden, Whatcom County, Wash., when a child. He was reared on a poultry farm, and his stock made records in national egg-laying contests.

In 1917 he helped organize and was a charter member of the Washington Co-operative Egg and Poultry Association (renamed Washington Co-operative Farmers Association in 1945). During the early years of the association, he was a trustee and vice-president. In 1920 he resigned from the board to serve as manager of the Lynden branch. In 1928 he was transferred to Seattle to serve as assistant general manager, being promoted to general manager in 1936, in which capacity he has since served.

In 1936 Mr. Beernink was awarded the "Certificate of Merit" by Washington State College for his contribution to agriculture. During World War II he served on three War Production Board advisory committees and on the Selective Service Appeal Board No. 3, Seattle, representing agriculture.

Mr. Beernink is president of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives. He represented the Council at the International Federation of Agricultural Producers at Paris, France, in 1948, at Guelph, Canada, in 1949, and at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., in 1957. He also is a member of the American Institute of Cooperation, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, and the Association of Washington Industries.

W. Aubrey Calloway, Bosco, Louisiana

Mr. Calloway owns and operates a 2,400 acre farm in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. Approximately 600 acres of this is pasture land. Since 1930 he has engaged in diversified farming consisting of cotton, corn, small grains, cattle and hogs. His cattle consist of a commercial Hereford herd and a registered Angus herd. A small herd of registered Herefords were added in 1956.

He also owns and operates a cotton gin, a feed mill, a seed (field) grading plant, and a general store. From 1925 to 1930 he was engaged in rice and dairy farming.

Mr. Calloway is a member of the Louisiana Crop Improvement Association and Louisiana Cotton Breeders Association. He served as chairman of the Federal Farm Security Administration County Committee for two 3-year terms, and for four years was president of the Louisiana Hybrid Seed Corn Association.

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O. B. Jesness, St. Paul, Minnesota

Mr. Jesness was born on the homestead of his parents in Stevens County, Minnesota, February 4, 1889. Since 1928 he has been head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Minnesota. From 1920 to 1928 he was head of the Department of Markets and Rural Finance, University of Kentucky. From 1915 to 1920 he was on the staff of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C. Mr. Jesness has given major attention to problems of agricultural policy in his teaching, research and public service activities.

He is a director and deputy chairman of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank, Minneapolis, and a director of Green Giant Co., Le Sueur, Minn. He is a member of the Foreign Commerce Department Committee, U. S. Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the advisory council, Agricultural Commission, American Bankers Association. He served as a consultant to the Commission on Foreign Economic Policy. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with degrees of B.S.A., M.S. and Ph.D.

James J. Love, Quincy, Florida

Mr. Love owns and operates an 800-acre farm producing shade grown tobacco, general feed crops, and grazing and feeding steers. About a third of the farm is in timber.

He is a member of the Florida Board of Control (of institutions of higher learning), member of the State Plant Board, and director of Winn Dixie Stores, a Southeastern food chain. He is past president and a member of the executive committee, Georgia-Florida Shade Tobacco Growers Association, and was chairman of the Florida Committee of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and its successor agencies from 1936 to 1952.

Mr. Love was born in 1898. He is a graduate of Davidson College.

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C ris Milius, Omaha, Nebraska

Mr. Milius was born and raised on a farm and from 1915 to 1941 operated a diversified farm in J fferson County, Nebraska, where he milked cows, fed a few cattle, raised hc gs, and produced feed for this livestock.

During his early ears as a farmer, Mr. Milius became interested in cooperatives. He ser ed for five years as president of a local cooperative organization and eigh , years as county chairman. For 12 years he was a district director for the Farmers Educational and Cooperative State Union of Nebraska, and a me mber of its State Board for a comparable period. He served 16 years as p esident of this organization, and retired from this position March 1, 1957.

In addition, Mr. Milius has been a member of the Cooperative Elevator and Oil Company Board for 12 years and for many years has served on the board of the Farmers Union Co-operative Creamery Company after having helped to organize and sell shares in that company. He has also served as chairman of the Jefferson County Taxpayers League. Mr. Milius, although not now an active farmer, still owns 490 acres of land.

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